Meshtastic Setup Guide

Getting started with Meshtastic is straightforward. The project has extensive documentation and a large community, making it one of the easiest LoRa platforms to get up and running.

What you need

- A Meshtastic-compatible LoRa device, fully charged
- A smartphone (Android or iOS) or a computer
- The **Meshtastic app** (free on Google Play and the App Store) or the web client at client.meshtastic.org

Step 1 - Flash firmware (if needed)

Many devices ship without Meshtastic pre-installed. Use the **Meshtastic Web Flasher** at flasher.meshtastic.org to install firmware directly from your browser - no special software required.

1. Connect your device via USB
2. Open flasher.meshtastic.org in Chrome or Edge
3. Select your device type and click Flash
4. Wait for the process to complete and reboot

Step 2 - Connect via app or web client

Open the Meshtastic app on your phone. The app will scan for nearby Bluetooth devices. Select your node, pair, and the app will show you the node configuration screen.

Alternatively, use the web client at client.meshtastic.org if you prefer a browser-based interface.

Step 3 - Configure region

This step is mandatory before the radio will transmit. In the app or web client:

1. Go to **Config → LoRa**
2. Set **Region** to the code that matches your country - **US** for the United States *and Canada* (both use the 902-928 MHz US915 band), **EU_868** for most of Europe, and so on. See the region reference for other countries.
3. Save and allow the device to reboot

Setting the wrong region transmits on the wrong frequencies, which may be illegal and will prevent you from connecting to other local nodes.

Step 4 - Set your node name

In **Config → Device**, set a recognizable long name and short name for your node. Other users on the network will see this name.

Step 5 - Test

Open the **Messages** tab and send a message on the default channel. Nearby Meshtastic nodes will receive it. You can also check the **Nodes** tab to see any other devices currently in range.

Note: the default channel is *public* - anyone running Meshtastic in range (or anyone watching the public MQTT broker, if a gateway uplinks it) can read it. It is fine for testing, but do not send anything sensitive on it. Create a private channel with its own key for private conversations.

Further configuration

Meshtastic has many configurable parameters covering radio settings, power management, display, telemetry, and more. The official Meshtastic documentation at meshtastic.org/docs is comprehensive and well-maintained - refer to it for anything beyond basic setup.

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